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Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan

Prepared For:	Schwartz Family Company Pty Ltd
Project:	SFSF Stage 2 - Solar Energy Program
Date and Revision:	April 30, 2021 – Rev 0

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Revision History					
Rev No.	**Description**	**Prepared by**	**Reviewed by**	**Authorised by**	**Date**
00	Internal Draft	S. Miller	D. Haines	A. James	12/11/20
0	Final (Draft)	S. Miller	D. Haines	A. James	29/04/21

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Schwartz Family Solar Farm Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (DRP) is to develop a framework for the decommissioning and rehabilitation phase of the Project, and describe the following components to ensure this phase is undertaken in the most appropriate manner:

- Identify and document the existing environment and conditions of the Site.
- Identify critical stakeholders.
- Outline the applicable approvals and licencing conditions.
- Implement appropriate management measures to ensure the decommissioning does not cause irreversible environmental impacts.
- Implement appropriate management measures to ensure that the site is rehabilitated to previous conditions.

This plan would be implemented at the end of the operational life of the solar farm, likely to be 25 - 30 years after the solar farm reaches practical completion and enters revenue service.

1.2 Objectives

The objective of this DRP is to provide a framework that will help ensure appropriate decommissioning and rehabilitation is undertaken at the end of the Project's operational life, and in accordance with legislative requirements, conditions of approval, stakeholder interests and industry best practice.

1.3 Finalising the Plan

It is anticipated that following approval being given to the Proposal by the local Council Authority and the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP), and conditions of approval would likely relate to the requirement of this DRP to be updated, reviewed, approved and implemented. As a result, this document would be amended post-approval to reflect the specific conditions or management measures outlined within any approval documents and requirements.

Additionally, due to the timeframe between preparation and implementation of this plan it is proposed that it shall be reviewed two (2) years prior to decommissioning, and at which point it will be reviewed, updated and amended as required.

This would include consideration of the following circumstances which may have changed during the operational life of the Solar Farm:

- Potential future uses of the site and/or landowner preferences.
- Developments in decommissioning and rehabilitation methodologies and management measures.
- Relevant policy, legislation and guidelines relevant to the Project.

1.4 Interactions with other documents

This DRP is a supporting document to the Schwartz Family Solar Farm Stage 2 Environmental Impact Statement (SEE - Statement of Environmental Effects – Solar Farm No.2) March 2020 and should be read in conjunction with all other specialist reports provided as part of the EIS.

2. Project Summary

2.1 The Proponent

The Proponent is Schwartz Family Solar Farm Stage 2, which is owned in full by the Schwartz Family Company. Should the asset be divested at any phase during the construction or operation of the Project, the implementation of this DRP would also be divested to the new owners.

2.2 Project Site

The Schwartz Family Solar Farm #2 is to be located on land parcels located at 127 Wills Hill Road Lovedale, NSW 2325, approximately 5km north-west of Cessnock, within the Hunter Valley, comprised within the Cessnock City Council Regional, Local Government Area (LGA).

The layout of the Solar Farm at the Site is illustrated in Figure 2-1.

2.3 Land Ownership

The Solar Farm and ancillary features would occupy approximately 10.3ha and be located and contained within:

- Part Lot 1 DP 1048155

This land is privately owned by the Schwartz Family Company.

2.4 Project Description

The solar farm includes the following components:

- Solar Components including
  - Up to 17,450 PV panels on fixed mounting structures
  - Electrical connections
  - Inverter stations (x2) where the inverters are containerised within the Solar PV Arrays
  - Underground cabling / collection circuits
- Electrical infrastructure including
  - 11kV Switch Room
  - LV Switch Room
- Temporary access road
- Temporary ancillary facilities and construction compounds
- Perimeter security fencing, and
- One (1) removable maintenance storage container.

At the end of the operational phase (likely 25 - 30 years) the infrastructure would be reviewed and either:

- Updated - the plant would be updated for continued use (subject to relevant approvals) or
- Decommissioned - the plant will be permanently removed.

Should the decision be made to remove the plant, then the Site would be returned as close as possible to its original condition and will be decommissioned as per standard solar plant isolation and disconnection procedures.

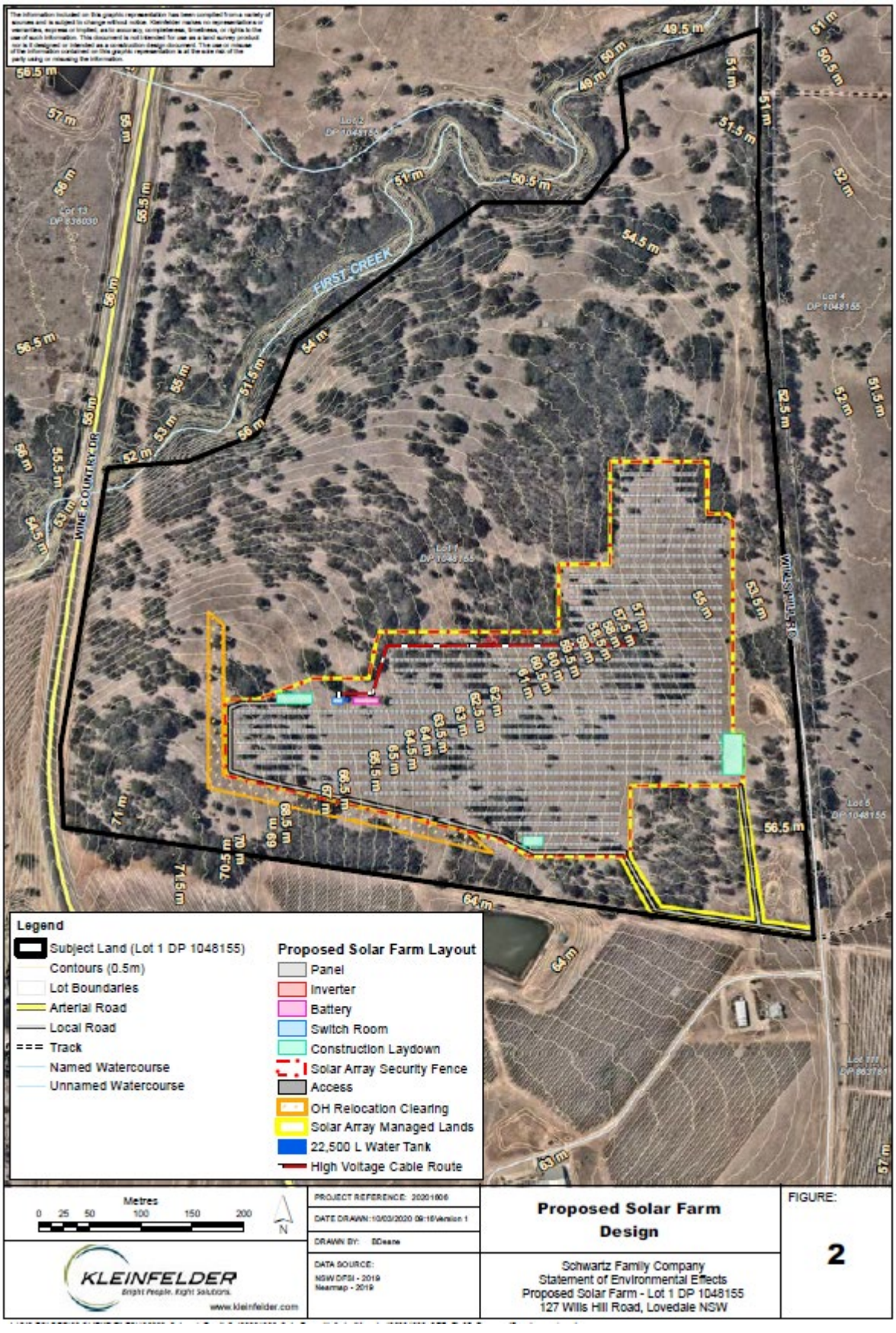

Figure 2-1: Schwartz Family Solar Farm – Site Layout

3. Decommissioning

Decommissioning will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Conditions of Approval and would likely include the following key elements:

- Removal of all components including:
  - Up to 17,450 PV panels, mounting structures, foundation posts and cabling.
  - Electrical connections.
  - Inverter stations.
  - 11kV Switch Room.
  - LV Switch Room.

- Removal of perimeter security fencing and maintenance storage container.
- All equipment, materials and infrastructure would be removed and then sorted and packaged for removal from the site for recycling or re-use.
- All areas of soil disturbed would be rehabilitated with the aim of meeting the existing (pre-construction) land capability.

Certain elements of the Project may be retained in agreement with the landowner and authority.

A detailed Decommissioning Plan would be prepared in consultation with stakeholders in accordance with the likely Conditions of Approval prior to the commencement of decommissioning.

The activities undertaken during decommissioning have the potential to impact upon the environment and as such a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be prepared prior to decommissioning.

The DEMP would include but not be limited to the following key aspects:

- Decommissioning Work Method Statements (or similar) for key decommissioning activities.
- Community & Stakeholder Consultation.
- Waste Management.
- Stormwater management.
- Soil Management.
- Noise Management.
- Dust management.
- Traffic Management.
- Vegetation management.
- Water and contamination management.

4. Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Conditions of Approval and would likely include the following key elements:

- Consultation with stakeholders including landowners to establish desired outcomes.
- Progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas during decommissioning including:
  - Backfilling of all trenches and excavations.
  - Laying of topsoil where required and in accordance with landowners' requirements for continued agricultural use.
  - Revegetation with native species where suitable to allow continued agricultural use of the site.
  - Reseeding of areas of pasture/crop in consultation with the landowner.
- Regular monitoring of rehabilitated areas for 2 years after decommissioning.

The activities undertaken during rehabilitation have the potential to impact upon the environment and as such a Rehabilitation Environment Management Plan (REMP) will be prepared prior to decommissioning.

The REMP would include but not be limited to the following key aspects:

- Schedule of Works/Hours of Operation.
- Community & Stakeholder Consultation.
- Waste Management.
- Stormwater management.
- Soil Management.
- Noise Management.
- Dust management.
- Traffic Management.
- Vegetation management.
- Water and contamination management.
- Rehabilitation Performance Criteria.
- Monitoring and Long-Term Site Management.
- Contingency Plan.

Talk to one of our specialists today.

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